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MONTEREY NEWS



November, 1977

OUR TOWN

Town Report Wins Contest

The Massachusetts Selectmen's Association has advised the Monterey Board of Selectmen that Monterey's 1975-76 Town Report has been selected as the first place winner in Category VII (population under 999). Our Town Report was chosen by a judging panel out of several hundred that were submitted. This year's panel consisted of staff persons from the General Court's Committee on Local Affairs, the Department of Community Affairs and the U.S. Civil Service Commission. This is the second year in a row that the Monterey Town Report has placed first in this competition.

Town Report Committee members who were responsible for the publication were Patricia Howard (chairman), Leonard Weber and Joel Schick.

Board of Health Policy Change

The Board of Health of the Town of Monterey has voted that, effective January 1, 1978, it will be the policy of the Board to review Percolation Tests and Deep Observation Pits only in the spring, from March 15 through June 15. This policy has been adopted to bring the Board in line with the regulations suggested by the Department of Environmental Quality Engineering of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, which indicates that testing of this nature should be done in the "wettest" time of the year to insure that the septic systems be designed to function under the most adverse environmental conditions. The only exceptions to this new policy will be cases of extreme emergency and/or repair of existing systems.

Selectmen Oppose Casino

Monterey Selectmen, in response to a request by the Berkshire County Commissioners for local input regarding the possibility of a gambling casino in Adams, Massachusetts, have replied by letter that it is their unanimous opinion that a casino is not in keeping with the general character of the Berkshires.

Lake Garfield Lowered

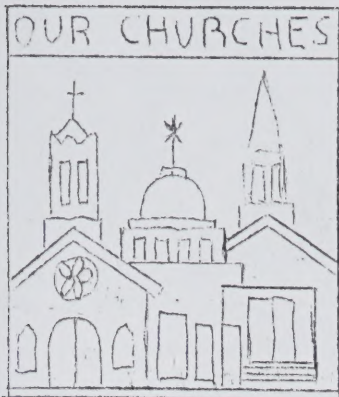
On October 28 the gate on the dam at Lake Garfield was opened one foot. During the next few days the gate was opened two and then three feet. The level of the lake is down almost five feet and, in the words of Selectman Tom Bradley, "running out hard." The rains of November 7 and 8 were not expected to cause significant change in the process, but a close watch was kept on the lake during that time. The lowering procedure will continue until the lake stabilizes at somewhere around six feet below its normal level.

Lake Buel Engineering Study

Fred Vorck and Matt Williams of the Lake Buel Association, along with the Monterey Selectmen and Cay Mielke of the Conservation Commission, met last month with Senator Sisitsky's administrative assistant and members of the staff of State Environmental Quality Engineering to discuss the appropriation of funds to finalize the engineering study on how to lower the level of Lake Buel. The alternatives are a dam or a pumping system. It is hoped that Senator Sisitsky can arrange to add the cost of the balance of the study into the new budget for Flood Control Funding in the state.

Binding Arbitration in Municipal Wage Disputes

John Ryder has been circulating a petition to be sent to the Massachusetts Secretary of State which calls for the diminution of authority given to binding arbitration in municipal wage disputes. As the law stands now, local fire or police departments who want an increase in wages against the wishes of the town which employs them can call for arbitration by a professional arbitrator. The decision of the arbitrator overrides the decision voted by the town. The petition, which is being circulated by Town Finance Committee representatives around the state, asks that the final say in wage dispute decisions be given back to the town government.



CATHOLIC CHURCH

Immaculate Conception Church, Mill River -- Mass at 10 a.m. each Sunday.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Morning worship each Sunday, 10:30 a.m.
Notes Church School: Kindergarten Sundays 10:30 a.m. . .
Grades 1-4, Wednesdays at 3:15 p.m. The
sacrament of baptism was received by Jason Alyn, son of Mr.
and Mrs. Wayne Finkle on October 30.

Community Bible Study Group

Each Tuesday evening since the middle of October has seen an unusually verbal group of people getting together in Monterey to study the Bible. We are studying by topics that grow out of the interest of the group. We started with "How Does the Bible View Good and Evil?" Then we moved to "The Kingdom of God," on which we spent two sessions. The next topic that emerged is "Why Are We Here?" As the next topic emerges from the discussion, Dr. Brallier selects a number of scriptures to help the group examine the various Biblical views of the subject -- and then the discussion is off again. The emphasis that the group tries to hold in focus is how what we learn affects the way we are living today. Any interested person in the community is invited to join this sprightly form of discussion and learning. The group meets in different homes.

Gift from Anna Parker Estate

The church was the grateful recipient of a gift from the Anna Parker estate during the past month. The gift was in the amount of \$8,000. This was deeply appreciated by the church. As Dr. Brallier noted, "It was in keeping with the spirit of Anna Parker that she would want the church to continue receiving the benefit of her generosity in her death, as well as in her life."

New Organist Named

During the past few Sundays the congregation has been pleased to hear the playing of John Newell of Chester as guest organist. Now he is no longer as guest organist. He has been called to and has accepted the position of organist. John is a young man who brings especial skill and sensitivity to his role as organist. He is currently working to complete his Ph.D. in composition.

Fast for a World Harvest

The church encouraged its members to engage in a fast to help relieve world hunger. This was done in cooperation with Ox-Fam, a small, lean, lively world organization working to help people find ways of helping themselves out of the world food shortage. The offering of the different people and families was received last Sunday and is being sent on to Ox-Fam.

How can you

said the dung beetle

and the death watch beetle

to the singing cicada

who'd dug up from below

after seventeen years

in a grave of a womb

make that feckless sound?

Susan McAllester

SEEING

As a youngster I was fascinated by the story of the five blind men who went to see an elephant. One felt his side and said, "An elephant is like a wall." Another felt his tail and said, "An elephant is like a rope." Still another took hold of his leg and declared, "An elephant is like a tree." So it went until all five had stated very different impressions of what an elephant was like -- and each was perplexed that the others saw differently from themselves.

As I listen to people talk about life and their experience of what life is like, I am reminded again and again of the five blind men looking at an elephant. How differently we see!

How are we to deal with these five persons who see the elephant so differently? Perhaps we should have a conference and get them to spend time in communication so they can iron out their different perspectives. Maybe there is some way an objective presentation could be made of the elephant so that they would be encouraged to depend upon our "correct" explanations rather than their own views. Then again, we might take them back to the elephant and insist that they broaden their experience until they could all learn to see alike.

But our concern is not for how we see elephants, is it? Yet how are we going to come to terms with the vastly different ways in which people see?

Sometimes this is a source of great distress. None of us can be greatly exercised over the five blind men seeing an elephant in such different ways. It is quite another matter when we live under the same roof with others, and in something that is very important to us, they see and act in a way that makes us think they are trying to torment or hurt us. It just doesn't seem possible they could really "see" our common situation that differently. We begin to think they are just stubborn -- not acting in good faith.

What are we to make of the vast differences in people's "seeing?" How are we going to position ourselves, especially when this difference may become a source of pain and hurt to us? Do you remember some years ago when Chairman Mao in China said, "Let a thousand flowers bloom?" That was understood to mean that many different views of how life in China should develop would be welcomed. Behold, almost immediately they did start to bloom. Yes, and almost as immediately the blooms were crushed. It turned out that these flowers did not correspond to the official party-line flowers and they could not be tolerated.

My guess is that, deep within, many of us are nearer to Chairman Mao than we might like to admit. We feel threatened by the different ways people see life. We really wish folk around us would try a little harder to see things the way we do.

We have been born into a world in which there is a lot of fear. Yet we have been born in a time in which a real revolution is taking place in human consciousness. So much of this revolution is based on the fact that we are beginning to recognize how infinitely varied are the possibilities that exist from one person to another. If we were truly able to respect the enormous ranges of potential that lie within each person we might be able to say that each is a different experiment on what it is to be a person.

The truth of it is our society is pretty scared of how widely varied the "seeing" and "being" can be, so a large part of our efforts are aimed in the same direction as Chairman Mao's. We must seek more for conformity to common ways of being than give real encouragement to the unique qualities that are trying to arise in each person. We are fearful that the common good could not be served if the infinite variations in personality were genuinely encouraged.

I should like to hazard a guess that the revolution in human consciousness in our time is the most exciting and critical issue of this time. So many forces are ranged on the side of regimentation. It is fueled by the fear that unless we lock step and get everyone to "see" more or less alike we cannot survive the increasing demands made on our shrinking planet.

Yet I have a strange feeling that our salvation lies in quite another direction. There is so much suppressed genius trying to burst out of our restrictive fear. It is almost as though a "break-out" of some kind seems to be in the wings.

Indeed, I wonder if shifts in human consciousness are not what have written the movement of our world history! Moses came as a major breakthrough on the human scene. Certainly, concepts of law and community that grew out of Moses created a new order over a large part of the world. Did not the concept of love and grace that came with Jesus Christ begin another major shift in the human scene? Well, I have mentioned two of the epochal persons whose movement in consciousness provided landmark changes on the human scene. You can name others. When I remember this it loosens me up a bit inside. Indeed, every time I find a neighbor who sees life through eyes that are different from mine, I am not quite as convinced as once I was that civilization will crumble if I don't get him to see "the right way." The deepest irony of all lies in the fact that the most epochal movements in human consciousness are those that also have created new bases of unity for humanity.

Virgil V. Brallier, Minister
Monterey United Church of Christ



With sorrow at the loss we all feel, we record the death of Ruth Carr on November 7. She had been ill for about two months, and had entered Fairview Hospital in late September. About two weeks ago she was moved to the Great Barrington Nursing Home. Her son-in-law, Donald Mott, took up his residence at the family cottage here soon after Ruth entered Fairview and has been with her daily. Ruth had many visitors and seemed able to enjoy them most of the time. A memorial service was held at Gould Farm November 15.

In 1947 Clarence Carr was serving the Congregational Churches of Southfield, New Marlborough and Mill River. He and Ruth had become acquainted with Gould Farm during the previous two years of Clarence's ministry, and when he decided to leave his pastorate it seemed a natural step for them to throw in their lives with the group here. Ten years later Clarence built, almost single-handed, the cottage named by the Carrs "Quiet Hill." After his death in 1967 Ruth continued to make her home there. She shared it generously with her friends and with guests of the Farm. Her contribution to the Farm's life was a rich and faithful one, based as it was in her unswerving religious faith and her interesting life in this country and in China, where for seven years in the nineteen-twenties she had been a Y.W.C.A. secretary in Peking. Shortly before she became ill in August she responded to a request to lead a staff discussion on religion at Gould Farm. She did so with her usual ability and keenness of mind and her sensitivity to the needs of others. No one can take Ruth's place among us. We loved her and we shall miss her sorely.

Can anyone imagine how we could have failed to give an October paragraph to the arrival of Heather Chapman? She came quietly in (was it the back door?) at Snow Cottage on September 17 to join her family, Hugh, Patsy and Justin, making a very pleasant foursome. We are rich in babies: Dominic Stucker, six months old, Jordan Loder, four months, and Heather, six weeks.

Ty Pyles and Teresa Edwards were married at the Church of the Brethren in West Charleston, Ohio, on October 22. Ten days later they returned to the Farm, where both are workers under the program of the Brethren Volunteer Service. This will be Ty's second year at the Farm. We wish them many happy years together, wherever they may be.

Hubert Klein came November 6 from Graven, Germany. He is a member of Action Reconciliation Services for Peace, an organization through which we have had two other volunteers, Liz Otter Stucker and Tom Milz. Hubert has a master's degree in psychology. He is a conscientious objector, fulfilling his German military obligations by serving at Gould Farm.

The Finance Committee of the Board of Directors met here November 6. Members are Paul Kennedy, Larry Bolvig, David Colt, Jim Hawks, Bill Pearl and Bob Wheeler, with Ed Dunlop and Kent Smith. All were present. They prepared the budget for 1978, to be submitted to the full Board at its next meeting.

Rose McKee

MONTEREY GRANGE #291

Monterey Grange #291 met October 19, when senior members from Monterey Grange and neighboring Granges were honored. There were 15 Granges represented, some members holding membership 70 years and some coming a distance of 71 miles. The program consisted of highlights in Grange history, readings, vocal solos, community singing, skits and accordion selections by Brother Normand Ringer of Mellenville Grange, Ghent, New York.

On November 2 Monterey Grange met for Safety Night. Police Chief Douglas Lyman and Officer James Christie spoke on safety on the highways and in the home. It was very informative. Worthy Master and Worthy Lecturer gave a report on the recent State Session at Chicopee.

The most recent meeting was November 16, when Neighbors' Night was observed.

Some repairs have been made in the kitchen and bathroom.

Mary Wallace
Lecturer

NEW MARLBOROUGH-MONTEREY PTA

The PTA started its season with a fall meeting to plan various activities through the winter. Many of us attended an October meeting of the Sheffield PTA, at which time the new reading program was explained at length. We have had a very enthusiastic response to the ski program, sponsored for the third year by our PTA. It was decided to have one more meeting in the winter to firm up plans to support a fourth grade outing and other worthwhile activities.

Cynthia Weber
President



GIRL SCOUTS

The Brownies had an Investiture Ceremony on October 20 at the home of Maureen Bradley. Parents were invited. New Brownies are: Shelby Loder, Nancy Bynack, Jennifer Walk and Leland Williams. They received Brownie pins, recited the promise and the law and sang the Brownie song. Refreshments were served. In October the Brownies decorated Halloween pumpkins and made them into "pumpkin cats." Following that they took a hike in the woods.

Juniors Junior Scouts are organizing under the leadership of Linda Whitbeck, with Judy Hayes assisting. Juniors range from 4th to 6th graders.

On Tuesday, November 22, there will be a Rededication Ceremony in the church basement from 3:15 to 4:15. All are welcome. Girls who will renew their promise are Connie Amstead, Katie Bradley, Susanne Eline, Cassie Gates, Linda Hayes, Mary Heath, Claudia Jonas, Maureen Litchfield, Monica Pizzichemi, Kellie Van Deusen and Ellen Whitbeck.

Cadettes The Cadette Scouts are looking for members. Maxine La Brecque has volunteered to be their adult leader, with the assistance of Agnes Pizzichemi, Susan Kickery and Colleen Hastedt.

Seniors Seniors Andrea Pizzichemi, Gwen O'Connell, Agnes Pizzichemi, Susan Kickery and Colleen Hastedt are organizing a bake sale in Adams, Massachusetts, to raise money for a trip to Washington, D.C.

BOY SCOUTS

At a Pack Meeting Friday evening, November 4, the following boys received awards: Bobcat Patches: Richard Basset, Norman Stalker, Donald Walk, Ralph La Rosa.

One Year Pins: Ben Reuter, Jason Weber, Sean Smith, Richard White, Patrick Eline, Robert Johnston, Kirven Blount.

Webelo Two Year Pin, Athlete Badge: Robert Sluka, Keith Amstead, Daniel La Brecque. On October 16 Monterey Den 1, New Marlborough Den 2 and the Webelos joined for a presentation by Clem Gilbert of Nature's Classroom which included Indian games and lore.

Cubs Den 1 Cub Scouts in Monterey began their fall season with activities relating to Indians and to the early history of Monterey. One beautiful afternoon the boys went to Stockbridge Cemetery and made a rubbing of the monument honoring Chief Konkapot. They also visited the Arts Action exhibition of paintings of Indians and decorated shields by John Manikowski, and then went across the street to Great Barrington Town Hall to see early records and documents of Housatonic Township #1 in the Southern Berkshire Registry of Deeds. The project for the Pack Meeting November 4 included Indian design vests and special shields. The latter are on display in the Monterey Library reading room. This very interesting presentation was through the generosity of Nature's Classroom. During the exceptionally nice weather the boys visited the Monterey Parade Ground and the Old Center Cemetery. The Den meets in the Library basement on Tuesday afternoons, and any boy at least 8 years of age or in 3rd grade is invited to join us. The Cubs are now working on their Wolf and Bear Badges and are planning for the holidays.

Webelos The Webelos, under the leadership of Maxine La Brecque and Iris Sluka, have completed their Athlete Badge. They are finishing up their Naturalist Badge by making terrariums. Before that they made charts showing the flyways of migrating birds, visited the Berkshire Museum, identified poisonous plants and reptiles and observed and described wild animals.

MONTEREY YOUTH GROUP

The youth group plans to meet every Sunday evening from 5:00 to 6:30. There are now a dozen or more young people involved. The present study, the title of which is "Identity," will help the participants to open up their own growth at this stage of life. There is a strong social aspect to the group, and there are plans for a service aspect which will involve a sense of responsibility to the community.

A potluck supper is planned for November 20. The group sponsored this year's Halloween UNICEF collection.

Parents and interested volunteers are urged to help the youth group get off to a good start. Reverend Virgil Brallier is temporarily leading the group, with the assistance of Judy Hayes.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are particularly grateful this month for the prompt and generous response to our appeal, and to those of you who took the trouble to answer our small "questionnaire." Our warm thanks go to the following: Mr. & Mrs. Dean Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Adams, Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Amidon, Ms. Virginia Cesario, Mrs. Howard Colt, Mrs. E. P. Davis, Mr. & Mrs K. O. Davis, Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Dietter, Mr. & Mrs. William Mielke, Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Hanlon, George J. Helmrich, Mrs. Clarence Kinne & Mrs. Mildred Walsh, Mr. Herbert Krais, Mr. & Mrs. Fred Lancome, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Lanoue, Mrs. Sidney McKee, Mrs. Julius Miner & Mr. Newman Abercrombie, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Mollé, Mr. Marcel Pasche, Mrs. Charles Peet, Mrs. Beatrice Phillips, Mrs. P. E. Plehn, Mr. & Mrs. Louis Potter, Rev. & Mrs. Raymond Ward, Ms. Margaret Wheeler, Mrs. Harold Winchester, Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Wool.

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